

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).
Claims 1-6 are pending for further examination. Claim 1 is currently amended.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner and his Supervisor for participating in a telephone call on January 16, 2009, in which the Examiner and his Supervisor agreed that the Applicant's proposed amendment would overcome the rejections based on the references of record. In particular, the Examiner and his Supervisor agreed that none of the cited references discloses or renders obvious a board having an "insulative cover," in which the insulative cover is "fixed to [a] stem" through which the board is inserted.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Maruyama et al. reference (U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2004/0208211) in view of the Uchida reference (U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2002/0109074) and further in view of the Angulas et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,435,732).

Independent claim 1 is currently amended to recite a communication module that includes a board having an "insulative cover," in which the insulative cover is "fixed to [a] stem" through which the board is inserted. As explained above, none of the cited references discloses or renders obvious those features. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations they contain.

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It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

The fee for the Petition for Extension of Time and RCE is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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